

**From:** Chris Griffin  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 12/13/01 7:07pm  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

To whom this may concern,

I hope and pray that the DoJ has the common sense to realize the chance at hand to make a stronger economy. By forcing microsoft to open up source code, especially that of their Office suite, it could be ported or atleast partially used to help other vendors compete.

If the unix environment had a compatable office suite it could be used on more desktops at offices. Companies would then have more money to spend in other areas, such as user training, pay raises, technology advancements by being able to afford bright new programers that wouldnt have as much of a chance in a proprietary world. The list go on and on.

If the Apple/MacOS environment had another option than microsoft office that would also open doors for new jobs, and the before mentioned benefits.

MS claims that if they open the code they will not have any incentive to better the product? Then what drives the free software movement? The people that either don't get paid or get paid very little. What keeps them improving their product? It's because they love what they do, and want to help people.

It should be obvious to everyone by now, with the momentum the open source people have built up that MS is trying desperatly to keep themselves in the #1 position and not let anyone else even close. While competition is healthy, and almost all companies see that, even if they dont like it, microsofts tactics are unreasonable and should not go unnoticed by the courts.

Making MS open their office code to the public is a good and fair judgement I believe. I don't think their InternetExplorer code is as much of a big deal because with their latest release it has dropped support for some of the most common internet plugin software making it not the best choice of internet browers.

But I ask you to also consider how when MS updated their newest version of msn.com the site refused service to non IE browsers. That should be noticed as a blatant DoS (Denial of service) which has been pursued by the FBI. I think MS should be treated as any "hacker" the uses a DoS attack because the outcome is no different, its a Denial Of Service.

Thank you for your time, and I hope you make the right choice in this matter.

Chris Griffin